

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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QUESTIONS ABOUT THE POLL: TOM JENSEN 919-744-6312

Minnesotans ready for McHale to move on

Raleigh, N.C. – A majority of Minnesotans describing themselves as sports fans are ready for the Timberwolves to go in a new direction after another disappointing season. 54% of those surveyed in a scientific poll conducted by Public Policy Polling said they would like to see the team with a new coach next season rather than bringing back Kevin McHale.

Fans of the Wild, however, are disappointed with Jacques Lemaire's decision to move on as coach of the team. 48% said they were glad to get a new coach after the team missed the playoffs this season, but 52% said they wished the only coach the franchise has ever known would continue on.

When it comes to baseball, residents of the state are split on whether they think the Twins will emerge victorious in the AL Central this year. 46% think they will make the playoffs while 54% think they will not, perhaps more a function of the team's slow start this season than anything else.

"Sports fans in Minnesota are pretty divided when it comes to some of the big issues facing their teams," said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. "Particularly with the Wild and Timberwolves wrapping up their seasons without making the playoffs folks aren't sure whether the teams should stay on their current path or go in a different direction."

Digging through the crosstabs of the poll, it is clear that women are feeling more optimistic about the direction the state's professional sports teams are going in than men. For instance 57% of women think that McHale should return while only 37% of men do, indicating they think the franchise needs a change in direction. It's a similar story with the Twins. 53% of women think the team will make the playoffs, but only 40% of men share that optimism.

PPP surveyed 467 Minnesota sports fans on April 14th and 15th. The survey's margin of error is +/-4.5%. Other factors, such as refusal to be interviewed and weighting, may introduce additional error that is more difficult to quantify.

If you would like an interview regarding this release, please contact Dean Debnam at (888) 621-6988 or 919-880-4888.



Minnesota Survey Results

Q1 Do you think the Twins will win the AL Central this year? If yes, press 1. If no, press 2.

Yes 46%

No 54%

Q2 Would you like to see Kevin McHale return as coach of the Timberwolves next year? If yes, press 1. If no, press 2.

Yes 46%

No 54%

Q3 Are you glad that the Wild will have a new coach next year, or do you wish Jacques Lemaire had continued? If you're glad they're getting a new coach, press 1. If you wish Lemaire had continued, press 2.

Glad for New Coach 48%

Wish Lemaire had stayed 52%

Q4 If you are a woman, press 1, if a man, press 2.

Woman 53%

Man 47%

Q5 If you are a Democrat, press 1. If you are a Republican, press 2. If you are an independent or identify with another party, press 3.

Democrat 40%

Republican 28%

Independent/Other 32%

Q6 If you are white, press one now. If you are African-American, press two now. If other, press 3.

White 92%

African-American 3%

Other 5%

Q7 If you are 18 to 29 years old, press 1 now. If you are 30 to 45, press 2. If you are 46 to 65, press 3. If older, press 4.

18 to 29 12%

30 to 45 24%

46 to 65 37%

Older than 65 27%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Twins win AL Central?			
Yes	46%	53%	40%
No	54%	47%	60%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
McHale continues as Coach?			
Yes	46%	57%	37%
No	54%	43%	63%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Lemaire Departure			
Glad for New Coach	48%	46%	50%
Wish Lemaire had stayed	52%	54%	50%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Twins win AL Central?				
Yes	46%	48%	51%	39%
No	54%	52%	49%	61%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
McHale continues as Coach?				
Yes	46%	52%	49%	36%
No	54%	48%	51%	64%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Lemaire Departure				
Glad for New Coach	48%	53%	48%	43%
Wish Lemaire had stayed	52%	47%	52%	57%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Twins win AL Central?				
Yes	46%	45%	56%	56%
No	54%	55%	44%	44%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
McHale continues as Coach?				
Yes	46%	46%	38%	36%
No	54%	54%	63%	64%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Lemaire Departure				
Glad for New Coach	48%	48%	44%	46%
Wish Lemaire had stayed	52%	52%	56%	54%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Twins win AL Central?					
Yes	46%	60%	47%	42%	42%
No	54%	40%	53%	58%	58%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
McHale continues as Coach?					
Yes	46%	38%	38%	43%	60%
No	54%	62%	62%	57%	40%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Lemaire Departure					
Glad for New Coach	48%	46%	52%	48%	45%
Wish Lemaire had stayed	52%	54%	48%	52%	55%

